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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

1. At its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2003, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/58/84).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development and for the inclusion of the new subprogramme 10, Financing for development.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the focus of activities in subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, on the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The view was expressed that the Secretariat should ensure that the themes of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its role were aligned in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Appreciation was expressed for the emphasis put on the support to be provided to the 10-year review of progress in implementing the Barbados

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Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. The view was expressed that all references in the narrative of the programme to "the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" should be replaced by "the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation". Clarification was sought on the interactions between the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, referred to in paragraph 7.5.

6. The view was expressed that some of the narrative proposed for deletion, particularly in paragraphs 7.20 and 7.21 (b) should be retained, and that a reference to General Assembly resolution 47/191 should be included in paragraph 7.21.

7. The inclusion of the phrase "supporting efforts to promote new partnerships" in paragraph 7.21 (e) was questioned since consensus had not been reached on the question in the Second Committee. Queries were raised on how the United Nations provided advisory services to Governments and why specific mention was made to some of the sectors in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and not others.

8. The view was expressed that paragraph 7.22 (a) should be split into two separate paragraphs, one addressing the "effective implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" and the other dealing with "strengthening of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its reorientation to support implementation of sustainable development at all levels".

9. With regard to the new subprogramme 10, the view was expressed that the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development was one of the most successful and important endeavours of the United Nations in recent years. The establishment of the Financing for Development Office, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was considered as an important measure for ensuring that the consensus agreement reached in Monterrey would be followed up effectively. It was considered that the success of the follow-up work to be carried out would depend on a continuing spirit of cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other institutional and non-institutional "stakeholders", as foreseen in the Monterrey Consensus and pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly.

10. Attention was drawn to the need to correct an error in the Spanish version of paragraph 7.44 and to align the Spanish text of paragraph 7.46 (a) with the English version.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee welcomed the consideration of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the proposed revisions to programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.**

12. **The Committee stressed the need for urgent measures to be taken to ensure the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.**

13. **The Committee emphasized the need for adequate substantive and effective support to be provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high-level body within the United Nations concerned with**

sustainable development and in view of its role in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

14. The Committee stressed the need for effective support to be given to the 10-year review of progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

15. The Committee reiterated the important role of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in promoting system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination to enhance the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Overall revisions

Replace all references in the narrative of the programme to "the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" with "the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation".

Paragraph 7.2

Delete the words "and further initiatives" in the fifteenth line.

Paragraph 7.3

Revise the paragraph to read: "Accordingly, in supporting the implementation of agreed development goals and in line with General Assembly resolution 57/300, special attention will be given to advancing the implementation of development goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, resolution 52/2 and related elements of the programmes of action of the above-mentioned international conferences within the purview of the Department, and particularly to promoting effective follow-up of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The mandates emerging from these conferences, and the need to support the calls by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the United Nations conferences and summits, imply enhanced responsibilities for the programme, including the requirement to provide Member States, on request, with macroeconomic analyses and statistical and demographic analysis and information that can support coherent and effective policy formulation and implementation and assist the international community in its overall implementation effort;".

Paragraph 7.6

Delete the words 'and/or expert".

Paragraph 7.20

Retain the words "decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of bodies responsible for energy and natural resources".

Paragraph 7.21 (a)

- **Replace the words "and coordinated" with the words ", coordinated and integrated" in the first line.**
- **Replace the word "from" by the word "of" in the fifth line and delete the words "both within and outside" in the fifth and sixth lines.**
- **Delete the word "partnerships" in the sixth line.**
- **Insert the word "relevant" before the word "stakeholders" at the end of the paragraph.**

Paragraph 7.21 (b)

- **Retain the word "substantive" after the word "providing" in the first line and insert the word "and" after the word "substantive", so that the phrase reads "substantive and effective".**
- **Replace the word "gaps" with the word "obstacles" throughout paragraph 7.21 (b).**

Paragraph 7.21 (c)

Revise the paragraph to read: "Supporting implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in all areas of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation while focusing on the thematic clusters contained in the multi-year programme of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development through strengthening of the knowledge base of sustainable development; technology transfers, making more effective use of national and regional reports and other information on progress in the implementation of sustainable development; and using contemporary methods of data collection and dissemination, including broader use of information technologies;".

Paragraph 7.21 (d)

Add at the end of the paragraph the words "in accordance with the rules of procedure established in that context".

Paragraph 7.21 (e)

Revise the paragraph to read: "Setting up a transparent and accessible database system for making information available on sustainable development partnerships, involving Governments, international organizations and major groups, and supporting partnership as one of the supplementary means of supporting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its

nineteenth special session and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, according to the modalities which were agreed upon by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session;".

Paragraph 7.21 (g)

- **Add at the end of paragraph 7.21 (g) the words "upon their request".**
- **Delete the words ", including indicators of sustainable development" in the sixth and seventh lines.**

Paragraph 7.21 (i)

- **Insert the word "and" after the word "regional" and retain the word "international".**
- **Add a new paragraph 7.21 (j) reading: "Supporting efforts at the regional level aimed at the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in accordance with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;".**

Paragraph 7.22 (a)

- **Revise the paragraph to read: "Effective implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at all levels, inter alia, through partnership initiatives according to the modalities agreed upon by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session that support implementation of the commitments agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;".**
- **Insert a new paragraph 7.22 (a) bis, reading: "Strengthening of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its reorientation to support the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;".**

Paragraph 7.22 (b)

Insert after the words "Better integration" the words "and coordination".

Paragraph 7.22 (c)

Insert after the words "Improvement in the" the words "support extended to the Commission on Sustainable Development in reviewing" and delete the words "monitoring of".

Paragraph 7.22 (d)

Delete the words "and other mandates in the area of sustainable development" after the words " World Summit on Sustainable Development" at the end of the paragraph.

Paragraph 7.22 (e)

Revise the paragraph to read "Enabling the Commission on Sustainable Development to effectively review and facilitate the partnerships that support the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;".

Paragraph 7.22 (f)

Replace the words "in particular" in the first line with the word "including".

Paragraph 7.22 (g)

Delete the paragraph.

Paragraph 7.23 (b) (i)

Revise the paragraph to read: "Progress in the achievement of United Nations objectives and goals on sustainable development, and in particular those related to water, sanitation and human settlements and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production".

Paragraph 7.23 (b) (ii)

- **Insert a new paragraph 7.23 (b) (ii) reading: "The extent to which international organizations have provided support for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on the feedback provided by Member States;".**
- **Renumber old paragraph 7.23 (b) (ii) as 7.23 (b) (iii) and revise the text to read: "The number of collaborative arrangements and partnerships in the area of sustainable development involving organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, as well as the relevant decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;".**

Paragraph 7.23 (e)

- **Revise the paragraph to read "Provision of information and summary reports on partnership in a transparent, participatory and credible manner, in accordance with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session;".**

Paragraph 7.45 (a)

Replace the words "relevant bodies" at the end of the paragraph with "institutional stakeholders".

Paragraph 7.46 (e)

- **Revise expected accomplishment (e) to read: "Enhanced capacity of Governments, in particular those of developing countries and countries**

with economies in transition, to participate actively in the financing for development process;".

– Add a new expected accomplishment (f): "Fuller engagement of Governments to ensure proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the Conference and to continue to build bridges between development, finance and trade organizations and initiatives within the framework of the holistic agenda of the Conference."

Legislative mandates

Insert the following resolutions under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, General Assembly resolutions:

57/249 Culture and development

57/265 Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund

57/266 Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)